

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Ted Strickland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN FEDERALLY DECLARED COUNTIES

COLUMBUS - Gov. Ted Strickland today announced that Ohioans affected by the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes in Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Putnam, Richland, and Wyandot counties are eligible for additional assistance through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The additional assistance follows President George W. Bush's Aug. 27 declaration of a federal disaster for the six counties.

"Disaster unemployment assistance is another way we can help folks affected by the floods rebuild their homes, businesses and communities," Strickland said. "Local economies were hit hard by this storm, but this assistance will help minimize the long-term impact."

Eligibility for Unemployment Compensation is broadened under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program to include people, who as a result of the disaster: no longer have a job; are unable to reach their place of employment; were to have started new employment but cannot; have become the major supporter for a household because the head of household died in the disaster; or cannot work because of injury. Self-employed individuals and farmers who are not covered by unemployment insurance may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits. Individuals who have exhausted Unemployment Compensation eligibility may also qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

Applications for these benefits may be filed by calling the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services toll-free at 1-877-644-6562 (877-OHIO-JOB) from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Applicants should be prepared to provide a Social Security number and driver's license or state ID number and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all employers within the last 18 months. Individuals in these counties must apply by Sept. 26, 2007.

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